

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 26, 2004. Claims 1, 3 to 8, 10 to 15 and 21 to 23 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 8 and 15 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 15 were objected to for informalities. These informalities have been attended to by amendment, together with other informalities noted in the remaining claims. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for reasons that have been attended by amendment above.

All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,137,905 (Takaoka). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention concerns recognition-processing of at least one object in a digitized representation of an image. A reduced-resolution version of the image is created, and the reduced-resolution version serves as the basis for selection of a set of initial conditions for recognizing objects in the original, digitized representation of the image. Specifically, as set out in the claims herein, a plurality of sets of initial conditions are provided, the initial conditions including at least a condition for character recognition-processing of the image. For each of the sets of initial conditions, a confidence level is identified for a first character recognition-processing of the reduced version of the image, one such confidence level for each of the sets of initial conditions. At least one set is selected from the plurality of sets of initial conditions, based on the confidence level. Thereafter, objects represented in the digitized representation of the image are processed by second character recognition-processing based on the selected set of initial conditions.

Thus, the invention involves creation of a reduced-resolution version of an original image, first character recognition-processing of the reduced resolution version of the image for each of plural sets of initial conditions with identification of a confidence level for each of the sets of initial conditions, a selection of at least one set of initial conditions based on the confidence level, and second character recognition-processing of the original image based on the selected set of initial conditions.

On the other hand, the resolution conversion mentioned at line 17 to 24 of Takaoka's column 23 is used for section division as shown in Fig. 15B. However, the reduced resolution version is not used for character recognition-processing.

It is true that Fig. 24 of Takaoka discloses recognition units 102, 103 and 106, a decision unit 104 to compare the degree of recognition confidence of the recognition units, and a selector 105 to select any of the results of the recognition units based on the comparison. Such a selection, however, is not made based on confidence levels identified by recognition-processing of a reduced resolution version of the image.

In entering the rejection over Takaoka, it was said that decision unit 104 Takaoka corresponds to the claimed selection of the invention, and selector 105 Takaoka corresponds with the claimed recognition of the invention. However, the selector 105 of Takaoka merely decides the result of the recognition process to be outputted, and it is different from the invention which involves recognition of the first resolution image by using an initial condition selected based on confidence levels identified from recognition processing of a reduced resolution image.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the invention claimed herein differs fundamentally from the disclosure relied on in Takaoka, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", written over a horizontal line.

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